

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	HART, ET AL.)	
)	Attorney Docket No.: CBUS-1631-AV
Serial No.:	Continuation of 10/438,016)	
)	Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed:	Herewith)	
)	Examiner: Reip
For:	SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH)	
	IMPROVED TRACTION)	

Mail Stop Patent Application - Fee
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Insert before the first line of the specification the following sentence:

--This is a continuation of co-pending application No. 10/438,016, filed May 15, 2003, which is a continuation of co-pending application No. 09/355,679, filed August 9, 1999, which is a 371 of PCT/US98/02276, filed February 3, 1998 based on Provisional Application No. 60/037,077, filed February 3, 1997.--